

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 **Claim 1 (currently amended):** A high frequency heating
2 apparatus for heating a thing to be heated[[,]] comprising:
3 a high frequency generating portion;
4 a heating chamber for accommodating the thing to be
5 heated;
6 a steam ~~supply~~generating portion for ~~supplying~~
7 ~~generating steam into~~ in the heating chamber located in the
8 lower back portion of the heating chamber, and,
9 a partition plate which serves to mount the thing to
10 be heated thereon and is provided to be upward removable
11 apart from a bottom face of the heating chamber at a
12 predetermined interval, thereby dividing a space in the
13 heating chamber,
14 wherein at least one of a high frequency and steam
15 generating portion is supplied to the heating chamber,
16 wherein the steam is supplied into an upper space
17 positioned above the partition plate.

Claim 2 (canceled)

1 **Claim 3 (previously presented):** The high frequency
2 heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a gap is

3 provided between a peripheral edge of the partition plate
4 and a side wall of the heating chamber, and the steam
5 generated in the steam generating portion passes through a
6 side wall of the heating chamber and is guided to the upper
7 space of the heating chamber through the gap.

1 **Claim 4 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the partition plate
3 has a through hole on a peripheral part, and the steam
4 generated in the steam generating portion is guided to the
5 upper space of the heating chamber via the through hole.

1 **Claim 5 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the partition plate
3 includes a high frequency heating member.

1 **Claim 6 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the partition plate
3 includes a high frequency shielding unit.

1 **Claim 7 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the high frequency
3 shielding unit includes a metal plate.

1 **Claim 8 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

3 preheating means for raising an atmospheric temperature in
4 the heating chamber.

1 **Claim 9 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the preheating
3 means includes an upper heater provided in an upper part of
4 the heating chamber.

1 **Claim 10 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the preheating
3 means includes a high frequency heating member provided on
4 the partition plate.

1 **Claim 11 (currently amended):** ~~The high frequency~~
2 ~~heating apparatus according to claim 1,~~ A high frequency
3 heating apparatus for heating a thing to be heated,
4 comprising:
5 a high frequency generating portion;
6 a heating chamber for accommodating the thing to be
7 heated;
8 a steam generation portion for generating steam in the
9 heating chamber; and,
10 ~~wherein a steam delivery means has a steam delivery~~
11 ~~path for guiding the generated steam from an inner part of~~
12 inside the heating chamber to ~~an outside of the heating~~

13 ~~chamber, thereby introducing the steam through a steam~~
14 ~~delivery path back into the heating chamber again.~~

1 **Claim 12 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the partition plate
3 is engaged with an engaging portion provided in a plurality
4 of height positions on an internal wall surface of the
5 heating chamber.

1 **Claim 13 (previously presented):** The high frequency
2 heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the steam
3 generating portion is provided along a wall surface on a
4 back side of a bottom face of the heating chamber.

1 **Claim 14 (currently amended):** The high frequency
2 heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the steam
3 ~~supply generating~~ portion is constituted in such a manner
4 that the steam directly hits upon the thing to be heated.

1 **Claim 15 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising high
3 frequency distributing means for distributing and supplying
4 a high frequency into the heating chamber.

1 **Claim 16 (currently amended):** The high frequency
2 heating apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising
3 a control portion for controlling the high frequency
4 generating portion, the steam ~~supply-generating~~ portion and
5 the preheating means,

6 the control portion being constituted to execute, in
7 this order, a preheating step of heating the heating
8 chamber by heat generation of the preheating means and a
9 main heating step of supplying at least one of a high
10 frequency generated from the high frequency generating
11 portion and steam supplied from the steam ~~supply-generating~~
12 portion to carry out a heating process over the thing to be
13 heated.

1 **Claim 17 (currently amended):** The high frequency
2 heating apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising
3 a control portion for controlling the high frequency
4 generating portion, the steam ~~supply-generating~~ portion and
5 the preheating means,

6 the control portion having an interrupt processing
7 function for supplying steam from the steam ~~supply~~
8 generating portion into the heating chamber for a
9 predetermined time while the thing to be heated is heated.

1 **Claim 18 (original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising a steam
3 supply switch for executing the interrupt processing in an
4 optional timing.

1 **Claim 19 (currently amended):** ~~The high frequency~~
2 ~~heating apparatus according to claim 1 further~~A high
3 frequency heating apparatus for heating a thing to be
4 heated comprising:
5 a high frequency generating portion;
6 a heating chamber for accommodating the thing to be
7 heated;
8 a steam generating portion for generating steam in the
9 heating chamber located in the lower back portion of the
10 heating chamber;
11 a feed water tank;
12 a feed water pipe connecting the feed water tank to
13 the steam ~~supply~~ generating portion where the feed water
14 pipe further comprises an intermediate portion; and,
15 a heater to heat the water in the intermediate portion
16 before the water enters the steam generating portion.

1 **Claim 20 (previously presented):** The high frequency
2 heating apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising
3 an evaporator pan having a detachable cover.

Claim 21 (new): The high frequency heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the steam generating portion is located only in the lower back portion of the heating chamber.